Revival of FACT

2530. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given an assurance to the delegation led by the Kerala Chief Minister on 15th December, 1998 that a High Power Committee would be constituted to look into the revival of FACT;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have granted the following financial reliefs to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT):

(i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs. 226.88 crore for the period from 1998-99 to 2001 -02 on the OECF loan drawn from the Government of India by FACT for its Ammonia Project at Udyogamandal.

(ii) Moratorium on principal repayment of FACT up to 31.3.2002 on the balance OECF loan amounting to Rs. 378.20 crore drawn from Government of India.

(iii) Waiving levy of penal interest on FACT for past defaults in repayment of principal and interest of the OECF loan after assistance as at (i) & (ii) above being granted.

Fertilizer subsidy coupons to farmers

2531. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministerial group headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission is seriously considering a proposal to issue fertilizer subsidy coupons to farmers or to provide cash subsidy against Kisan cards;

(b) if so, whether this question was taken up by the Ministerial Group in the month of July 2002;